

## Winners Nominations

### **Environment - Johnathan Harrold**

I would like to nominate Johnathan for a Youth Award for all the hard work he has put in to The Bewbush Action Group, which undertakes environmental projects in Bewbush. Johnathan joined BAG about 4 years ago, and has attended meetings, putting forward many bright ideas. He gives the group a youths' perceptive on the environmental issues surrounding Bewbush.

Every month BAG arranges different projects in Bewbush, to brighten up the area. You can always find Johnathan working hard here whatever the weather. He has either got a litter picker in his hand, a spade or a wheelbarrow, and he is very eager to help. He makes everyone of all ages feel as though they belong, and he offers help where it is needed. BAG unfortunately does not have many male volunteers, so Johnathan also takes it upon himself to do all the heavy work too.

Not so long ago, the group's secretary retired due to ill health, and because I was Chairperson of the group, I also took over a temporary secretary. Johnathan has helped me arrange the monthly projects, and has even typed up the minutes of the meetings.

Johnathan regularly opened up and ran The Scrap Store on a Monday afternoon, because we were short of volunteers. The store encourages local groups to re-use materials therefore helping to reduce the amount of materials going to landfill and saving natural resources. He never argued or said that he didn't want too, he just smiled and said "yes mum, no problem". I can always rely on him to be there on time. He has done an inventory of The Scrap Store, and even tidied up!! (not bad for a boy?)

When the group were proud to be showing off their hard work for The South and Southeast in Bloom judges, Johnathan was there too. He interacted with the judges and gave them his ideas. Johnathan also helped at The Bewbush Summer Festival this year on the BAG table

As a group, we try to highlight our work with press releases as much as possible. Johnathan has been in the local papers several times promoting environmental projects, and people we know say they are so proud of him for the work he has done.

Johnathan not only volunteers for BAG but he is also a cadet in St John Ambulance and helps at our local karate club with the children and adult classes. Despite being so busy away from school, Johnathan achieved all B's and C's in his exams. Over these 4 years, I have seen Johnathan grow from a child in to a young man. I am very proud of who he is and what he has done for so many people. It's amazing how much Johnathan has done for The Bewbush Action Group. Keep up the good work Johnathan.

## **Carer Recognition - Kurtis Wilmore-Freeth**

Kurtis Wilmore regularly attends Cherry Lane Adventure Playground with his sister Siani. Nothing spectacular about that, except that Siani has Down syndrome and as fantastic as the staff are who work at the playground Siani can become a bit demanding, especially if the playground is full to capacity.

This is where Kurtis comes in. Kurtis can be playing quite happily somewhere when the call goes out that he is needed for Siani. He never complains never grumbles, he just gets on with helping his big sister, while also, unwittingly helping the staff who are working. He is also a lovely kid who we've never had an ounce of trouble with.

When its time to come to the playground, he comes with Siani, When it's lunch time he goes down the shop and gets Siani's chips. When its time to go he goes with Siani and uses his powers of persuasion when she decides she doesn't want to leave, and Siani can be stubborn, really stubborn.

We feel that Kurtis deserves recognition for what he has done (and will keep doing) and this is a perfect way to say Thank you to him from all the staff at Cherry Lane Adventure Playground.

## **Volunteer - Adam Wanstall**

I firmly believe that Adam deserves to get an award because he has grown from annoying child (sorry Adam but you know you were!) into a young man who is responsible, entertaining and eager to help.

I met Adam eighteen months ago and since then I am amazed at how he has grown. I think that the responsibility that volunteering has given him has helped turn him from demanding youngster into a helpful, thoughtful and enthusiastic young man. He now has a focus to channel his enthusiasm and his determination to do his best has been shown in countless ways. He has achieved an enormous amount, both in his personal development and also in the way he has changed those around him. We now have a handful of younger children eager to take on a volunteering role and I believe that seeing him succeed has inspired them.

He signed up for Outset in April this year and has racked up an enormous 160 volunteer hours with us throughout the summer.

His attitude has changed completely and where in the past he has expected us to entertain him, he now goes out of his way to entertain us. He started a drama club, working with the smaller children and has put on shows at the playground to amuse the children who attend. He applied for funding so he and his friends can make and mix music and more recently applied again to enable him and another group of young people to put on a show at The Hawth. He has already made tickets and rehearsals are in progress.

He is willing to do anything (except a litter pick!) and has been a real asset. Not only has he changed our view of Adam (I'm Bored) Wanstall but I think he has changed us too.

As well as helping us with general day to day events, he has come up with ingenious ways to store stock in our tuck shop, organise our cupboards and transform what I thought was old junk into both useful and decorative pieces. Maybe we will see him in the future on Dragon's Den trying to get someone to fund his latest "what to do with a small cardboard box" idea or some simple gadget to keep your Christmas tree lights tangle free that makes a million! What ever he ends up doing in the future, I for one am really pleased he couldn't stay away from us during this part of his life.

## **Music** Billy Delaney

I would like to nominate my grandson Billy AKA Young – B for his hard work and dedication to stopping gun and knife crime through his music and lyrics.

Billy aka Young – B was born and brought up in Crawley. His love of music began at 14 when he took part in a Gravity project at Dorman's youth club of which he was a member. There he recorded a hip-hop song which he wrote the lyrics to called (LISTEN) which was about stopping gun and knife crime of which he is passionate about.

Billy has performed in various venues throughout the South of England, namely the South of England show, The Hawth theatre in a show called Urban Flavas he was the opening act to Nicole Jane. He has spent a year studying music at Northbrook College in Worthing. From this he got to perform in Worthing and Brighton and ended the year with receiving a 1<sup>st</sup> diploma in music. This has given him the opportunity to widen his horizon and work with some of the best artists in the business. He is hoping he will achieve his dream of bigger and better things in music in the very near future.

**Visual Arts - Broadfield Youth Group**  
Ages 13 – 19

Over six consecutive weeks a group of over twenty young people took part in a Graffiti art project where they learnt the techniques, effects and history of this modern art form.

They had the idea and then some of the group applied for and received funding to enable them to start the project. Their idea was for young people to experience something new, as many had never tried graffiti before, as well as to promote their youth club and produce big boards relating to ideas/issues for young people, which could be displayed at various events. For the first two sessions they produced a piece of work which is how they learned their techniques and built confidence in themselves, before spending the next two weeks working in small groups on the bigger boards. The last two weeks of the sessions was spent putting a big design on the back wall of the adventure playground where they worked as one big group to produce this.

The reasons why I believe the group deserves the visual arts award is the commitment of all the young people to the project from start to finish and their willingness to learn, listen, support others who maybe took a little longer to grasp the techniques.

However, the main reason is that they achieved what they had set out before they started which was to express themselves and give the young people of Broadfield a positive image. This can be seen in the quality of the work produced.

## **Dance/Drama - Jessie Gasson**

Jessie is a true star and deserves to win this award.

Jessie is an outstanding performer in dance. She is highly motivated and professional in rehearsals and technique classes. Jessie is an inspiration; she shares ideas with the teachers and with peers. Jessie is happy to aid peers in work even when it is not any reward or benefit to herself. She often acts selflessly. Jessie's goal is to be the best and do the best in all she does. She is not afraid to put herself forward and this strength inspires many of her peers. She is extremely hard working and gained A\* at GCSE Dance and B in AS Dance. She is currently doing Dance at A2 level. Outside of her studies she attends "Fi Steps" dance school where she is a teacher to young adolescent performers sharing her good practice. She is a member of Thomas Bennett "Free 2 Dance" dance company where she has been a principle dancer for 2 years. She has volunteered to help peers at Thomas Bennett by giving up her free time to perform in other student's dances so they can achieve good grades. She has volunteered to teach at the Oaks Primary School with a friend for the last 2 years where she has shown her work at the Hawth Theatre.

Jessie Gasson will be a future star and receiving this award will help inspire her to push further up her ladder of dreams.

## **Sports Person - Sam Twomey**

On behalf of us all at Crawley Rugby Club we would like to nominate Sam Twomey.

Sam has been playing Rugby at Crawley since he was 7 and followed in his father and Uncles footsteps as both represented the club and county in their playing days, but Sam has gone one or two steps further than them both.

At under 15 level Sam's team at Crawley folded and rather than leave the Club Sam decided to move up an age and try to break in to the 16's. Through hard work and determination Sam commanded a regular starting place in this team and went on to represent Sussex at 15s age group and be a part in the Harlequins development programme at Brighton.

Last season after 4 games Crawley's under 17's which Sam played for had to fold which left Sam once again with no Club team. Sam was not deterred and continued with his own training supported by his family and the Harlequins development squad. He made the county team again and then made the Divisional team, this meant he could now only train and play for the divisional side, having played several games for division he gained an England under 16's trial. This involved weeks of training and trial matches once again the support of his family was crucial, many long trips to make training and games.

To put his achievement in perspective, the other trialists typically came from Rugby orientated public and private schools whereas Sam attended St Wilfred's school, which had no team themselves. So his competitors had the advantage of regular school and club games to gain their match fitness whilst Sam had to rely on his self motivation and determination.

In April Sam was chosen to represent his country and travelled to France to play in the 4 nations under 16s tournament, Sam played in all 3 Games and wears his England shirt with pride.

This summer Sam past all his school exams and achieved the grades he needed to take up a scholarship with Dulwich college and is now on Harlequins books, Sam was also invited to take part in the England under 18's training during the summer and has now been selected in the England under 18's squad, not bad for a lad just turned 16.

Sam has shown true commitment to his Club, friends and most of all family through out the last two years and we wish him all the best in following his dream to make the full England team in the near future.

2<sup>nd</sup> Nomination – From teacher at St Wilfrids

Sam was also a very keen sportsman in Football, Cricket and Athletics at St Wilfred's and helped out with Rugby Training sessions. In Athletics he was throwing 45m in the Hammer which was England standard.

Sam was also House leader at the school where he participated in tasks to help the House, as well as being a genuine friendly teenager he is one that is always willing to help out whenever he could.

## **Team Award**

### Gossops Green Cricket Team Years 5 & 6

The Gossops Green Primary School Cricket Team have been nominated for their spirit and determination. On Wednesday 18th June the team took part in the Crawley School Sports Partnership Asda quick cricket Festival. Twelve teams participated in the Crawley competition and Gossops Green Primary School Cricket Club won. This meant that they were through to the Sussex Asda quick cricket finals. The team went on to achieve a well respected third place in the Sussex finals. They also reached the Arundel Sussex Finals for the second year running.

## **Sports Volunteer**

Leslie Edwards

Leslie has been superb as a sports volunteer particularly working with young people who have special needs and learning difficulties. Leslie also works at Oriol youth wing as an assistant coach and works exhaustively to give opportunities to young people. He is learning all the time. He does not see anything as a barrier for him and is always keen to learn and develop himself. He is competent in order to run sessions and knows how to include young people with special needs into sport.

## **Courage** - Geraldine Maloney

Geraldine Maloney is an ex traveller who has played a major role in the integration of new travellers who are attending the setting.

Any new, especially younger travellers who are attending are swiftly taken under Geraldine's wing and she quickly slips into the role of big sister to them all. Sometimes the number can be as much as five at any one time.

It is of enormous benefit to the setting that Geraldine has the time, patience and ability to be able to do this, taking the pressure off the fantastic staff who work there.

She also suffers with Alopecia, but has not once let this affliction get in the way of her personality and, well cheekiness. And for a 12 year old girl in this image and celebrity obsessed culture, that's no mean feat.

## **Education - Matthew Greenhough**

Matthew is a credit to Oriol High School by achieving 8 A grades in this years GCSE's – Oriol's first year of GCSE's very well done! Matthew is also educationally blind and had to have all his exams brailled. He endured a massive 75 hours of exams during the GCSE period.

Matthew is also captain of the Sussex Visually Impaired Cricket team. He travelled to Barbados with them to play a week after his exams so was training as well as revising.

## **Inspiration - Andrea Ditch**

A few months ago Andrea's friend was stabbed with a knife in Ifield. She was very upset over this and approached the Crawley News to see if they would listen to her views on knife crime and if they could help her in anyway. The Crawley News approached me and mentioned Andrea and her plight. We arranged a meeting with Andrea and the Crawley News and myself listened to what Andrea hoped to achieve from her campaign. Andrea designed a stop knife crime poster and I published 10,000 copies of it which were distributed around Crawley. The Crawley News covered her campaign on a weekly basis and a knife amnesty was put in place and ran at Crawley Police Station for a month. All in all 410 knives were handed in by members of the public and the amnesty was hailed a great success. Andrea has set up a website allowing young adults to post on it their views on knife crime and how people should not carry knives. Andrea's campaign has now been highlighted by the BBC, Radio Mercury and young adult national websites. I feel Andrea should be nominated as she has been very brave in coming forward and speaking up against knife crime. She has worked alongside the local police in helping to highlight what can happen if you carry a knife and she has also shown that young people are against people carrying knives. Her campaign carries on and she is always looking at new ways to spread the word and show other young people that it is not a worth carrying a knife.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Nomination**

Andrea has given up a considerable amount of her valuable time to link up with police to get knives off the streets in Crawley. It has involved designing posters and taking the initiative on encouraging a lot of children who are too into knife culture to come forward and get rid of their knives in the amnesty arranged by her. It has also got parents and children talking on this important subject. This is something a lot of children her age would have shield away from – but she has made the brave decision of standing up and letting people know this is wrong!! Well done Andrea.